

Amendments to the Specification:

Page 1, before line 1, insert:

Cross Reference to Related Application

This application is a 35 USC § 371 National Phase Entry Application from PCT/JP2005/011116, filed June 17, 2005, and designating the United States.

Please delete the current title and replace with the new title:

SEALED RELAY FOR ALTERNATING CURRENT LOAD AND Ag-BASED CONTACT ELEMENT MATERIAL FOR USE THEREIN

Please replace the last paragraph bridging Pages 15 and 16 with the following amended paragraph:

Further, the results of the endurance test in a high-temperature atmosphere shown in Table 5 have revealed that the sealed relays comprising the electric contacts of Conventional Examples 1 to 3 have significantly decreased endurance. Specifically, the sealed relays in such a high-temperature atmosphere provided about 271,000 cycles in ~~Conventional~~ Comparative Example 1, and about 81,000 cycles in Conventional Example 1, about 201,000 cycles in Conventional Example 2, and about 20,000 cycles in Conventional Example 3. On the contrary, the Ag-Oxide type of electric contact material of Example 2 has been found to have a very high endurance life property which is practically acceptable in the high-temperature atmosphere with the severity of 85°C. Specifically, the sealed relays of Example 2 provided about 1,060,000 average switching cycles. This result indicates a remarkable improvement of endurance life, even if it is compared with the results that the contact material of Comparative Example 1 provided about 340,000 cycles

for the unsealed relays under conditions 1, and about 360,000 cycles for the sealed relays under conditions 3.

Please replace the last paragraph of Page 17 with the following amended paragraph:

Table 7 shows the average number of switching cycles provided by the relays in each of the examples (the average of numbers of switching cycles provided by 5 relays by the time they failed). The ~~un~~sealed relays both under the conditions 3 and 4 have been found to have definitely higher endurances than the unsealed relays both under the conditions 1 and 2. Further, the materials containing another oxide in addition to the iron oxide, as in Examples 5 to 14, have been found to provide higher endurance lives than those materials in Examples 1 to 4 of First Embodiment.